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interest in promoting the treaty by which we acquired the Floridas.

This was the era of the Forsyths, who seem to have brought American diplomacy to its low water mark. Kings could be insulted, especially feeble kings, with impunity. Keeping step to the same sound, but belonging to a later period, was Joel R. Poinsett, our Minister to Mexico. A York rite Mason, he assisted in organizing lodges in that Republic. For his activity he was sharply criticised by those brothers of "the mystic tie" who preferred the Scottish rite. In the variegated history of Mexico, *Yorkinos* and *Escoceses* have added elements of new confusion. He it was who declared that if the border Indians were not subdued, it would be necessary for the United States to pursue and chastise them "even under the walls of Mexico."

The accession of Jackson confirmed the growing sentiment in favor of acquiring Texas. So successfully was his eagerness repressed that it was popularly believed he was opposed to the project. Butler wrote to that virtuous statesman delicately hinting at the bribery of a Mexican official. It is only just to add that Jackson gave no encouragement to this baseness. But he did not, as he should have done, immediately recall him, though ultimately he was forced to. Butler wrote frequently, and wrote not only of Texas but of California.

Dr. Marshall's study is worthy of careful examination and is an excellent narrative of the subject treated. Perhaps a little condensation of certain sections would tend to make the outline of his story a trifle more clear. It plainly shows the efficient character of the historical work done at the University of California.

Nathan Hale, 1776, Biography and Memorials. By Henry Phelps Johnston: New Haven, Yale University Press; London, Humphrey Milford; Oxford University Press, 1914. Pp. 296.

Three interesting chapters inform the reader of the ancestral background, the youth, and the college life of Nathan Hale, a brave but unfortunate patriot. We are made clearly to see the social and academic forces which, during his residence at Yale College, fashioned one of the noblest characters of the War for Independence.

Hale's brief though successful career as a teacher was interrupted by "war's wild note." As a lieutenant in one of the Connecticut companies he was early in the field and was applying himself with enthusiasm to his new duties. The regiments of that State, sent in response to Washington's call for reinforcements, were soon in bivouac from Roxbury to Medford. With other New England volunteers they were besieging the British in Boston. Hale found himself in the brigade of Gen. Sullivan. In a short time his devotion to duty and his generosity won him the confidence and the affections of his soldiers.

On March 17, 1776, when with its Tory friends the British army sailed away from Boston, where it had been outgeneraled, Washington correctly concluded that the next point of attack would be the city of New York, and thither he immediately sent many of his regiments, himself following later with the remainder of the army. The succeeding events, including the disastrous battle of Long Island, August 27, 1776, is a familiar story. In the detached fighting of that day Captain Hale took no part. His command, in expectation of a British attack, manned the defenses of Brooklyn Heights. But no assault was made. It is probable that at least one lesson had been learned at Bunker Hill. The American position would better be reduced by a systematic siege, which could begin with the morning. But, as is well known, by that time the Americans were gone. Hale's assistance during this skilful retreat appears to have been his only share in the battle.

For the Commander-in-Chief there followed anxious days. Occupying Manhattan Island, he was aware that his position was fraught with danger, for with his great fleet, Howe could sail to the northward and land a force in his rear. Without knowledge of the plans of his adversary Washington was sorely perplexed. He urged his generals to learn something of the movements of his enemy. With their subordinates they discussed the need of such information and the means of obtaining it. It was in this situation that Hale consulted a fellow officer about an idea that was already assuming definite shape in his mind, namely, to disguise himself as a spy, enter the lines of the enemy, and return with the desired intelligence. His friend attempted to dissuade him, but Hale's purpose had mastered him. In his own modest

opinion he had accomplished nothing since entering the army, though he had in fact satisfactorily performed every duty assigned. He had no delusions about the nature of his project; he was aware that it was full of danger and he knew the usual fate of spies. All this he had considered with his friend. But he had become convinced that it was the duty of some one to obtain the desired information, and, so far as we are informed, without the approval of any superior, and against the remonstrance of his friend, he set out on his perilous way. Crossing from the shore of his native State, he landed at Huntington, Long Island, and safely worked his way to the East River. He was soon in New York within the British lines, where he began to make sketches and to take such notes as he believed would be useful. Of the details of his capture we know nothing. Apparently, he was taken during the night in an effort to reach the American lines. Brought at once before Gen. Howe, he found it impossible to explain the object of the notes and sketches found upon him. On a rigid cross-examination he made a full confession. In the circumstances the British commander did not believe it necessary to observe the forms of military law by giving his prisoner a trial; accordingly in the forenoon of the following day, September 22, 1776, the devoted Connecticut captain was hanged as a spy. He was too intelligent not to have known that such a fate was likely to befall him. But there was likewise a slight chance of success. That he volunteered to take. When failure came, he uttered, perhaps he felt, no regrets, but went courageously to his doom. With brave words on his lips he was hurried on to immortality. Everything connected with his tragic end shows that he had resolved, if it became necessary, to sacrifice himself in the cause of liberty. *I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.* This was the last message of Nathan Hale, a patriotic message which will echo down the centuries, a message which doubtless in the dreary days to come, was a consolation and support to many another patriot.

The soldier's fatal undertaking is minutely and accurately described in this enlarged and revised edition of Prof. Johnston's book. Records and legends and traditions have been carefully assembled and questioned, but they give forth no real voice nor sound as to the details of the young patriot's execution.

After all, it may be energy misapplied to look in America for new light. Perhaps a more careful search in England might be rewarded by the discovery of a few incidents of value.

In addition to an excellent biography there are included in this useful work many memorials of its young hero. His diary, his letters, and his verses are all of the deepest interest. It is a commonplace in American history that the Constitution was largely the work of college men. Incidentally, the work of Prof. Johnston shows that college graduates performed important services in the war of the Revolution. One sees, too, a pleasant picture of academic life with its cares and its joys. The *Hale Bibliography*, which is appended, will prove of great value to all who are interested in the beginnings of our republic.

Ulysses S. Grant. By Franklin Spencer Edmunds: Philadelphia, George W. Jacobs & Company. Copyright, 1915. Pp. 376.

This volume of the series styled "American Crisis Biographies" is a concise account of the chief characteristics of the renowned Civil War hero, as well as an accurate narrative of the important military events with which he was connected. Those who are not professional students of American history, but who desire to learn something of the men who preserved its greatness, will find in this book much to entertain and instruct them. That other numerous class who have not the leisure to learn the Civil War by reading in detail its battles and sieges, by studying the technical narratives of its great campaigns will, by an examination of this convenient volume, know the progress of the war for the Union and much that is essential about its greatest commander.

In referring to General Grant as the first soldier of the War for Southern Independence, one does not need to disparage the services of his loyal and efficient friends, Sherman and Sheridan, or of George H. Thomas, who was not so close to his affections. Ultimate defeat does not diminish the stature of Robert E. Lee, nor lack of support dim the fame of Beauregard, or of Joseph E. Johnston. They are all enrolled in the register of fame, but Grant is quite unlike any of them.

Though Beauregard found little favor with his superiors, compared with Grant he was thrice fortunate. In the opinion